

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Berry *et al.*

Examiner: Corrielus, Jean M.

Serial No.: 09/935,077

Art Unit: 2172

Filing Date: 08/22/2001

Docket No.: **END920010035US1**

Title: **MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACT DATA**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESTRICTION ELECTION

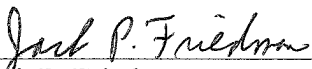
In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 1, 2006, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 5-16 and 32-43, drawn to a use of managing contract data that is transferred between discrete contract management systems, classified in Class 707, subclass 6. This election is made with traverse, and Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application in connection with unelected claims 22-27 and 49-54, drawn to a use of archiving each contract dataset identified in a suggest list receive from a procurement contract management system.

With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-54 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and the examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803, in which it is stated that “if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden,

the Examiner must examine it on the merits.” Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Should the Examiner require or request anything further from Applicants prior to examination, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative at the telephone number below. Otherwise, Applicants request early and favorable examination on the merits. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0457.

Date: 09/06/2006



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